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INQUIRE=DOC17D
ITEM NO=00413841
ENVELOPE
CDSN = LGX817 MCN = 92093/41818 TOR = 920932149
OTTCZYUW RUEKJCS5354 0932152-CCCC--RUEALGX.
ZNY CCCCC
HEADER
O 022152Z APR 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RUEKCCG/USDP-CCC WASHINGTON DC
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUWTHGA/12 AF BERGSTROM AFB TX//IN//
RUCEAAM/HQ NORAD INTEL CEN CHEYENNE MTN AFB CO//J2V//
RUEOACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUANJTF/CJTF FOUR
RHCGSRB/CJTF OR FT MCPHERSON GA//FCJ2-IC/FCJ3-OD//
RUWANGC/CJTF FIVE//J20//
RUWSMXI/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUWTKDA/CJTF SIX
RULKQAN/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RUEALGX/SAFE
O 022141Z APR 92
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8685
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/
RUEOHNA/CDR7THSFGA FT BRAGG NC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//CD-JIC-TS//
RUEHNA/DEAHQS WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIAHQS WASHDC
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC
RHEHOND/ONDCP WASHDC
RUEBWJA/USINS WASHDC
RULGSGG/COMLANTAREA COGARD//NEW YORK NY AOO AI AO//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCDCS/SCJ2-DEA-LNO/SCCG//
RUCOCGA/USCG PORTSMOUTH VA
RUEABND/DEA EPIC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC//2061 2105
RUEBWJA/USINS WASHDC
RULSJGA/COMCOGARD WASHDC//OLE/CI/O//
BT
CONTROLS
C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 005354

STATE FOR ARA/AND, INM
DEAHQS FOR A, AD, DO, AO, OF, OFL, OC OC/SNOWCAP, OIOC
INS PLEASE PASS TO BORDER PATROL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IS/FPC/CDR Date: 5/26/98
[X] RELEASE [X] DECLASSIFY
[ ] EXCISE [ ] DECLASSIFY IN PART
[ ] DENY
[ ] DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations
TS authority to:
[ ] CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C OADR
[ ] DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR

NSC FOR R. BEERS
ONDCP FOR J. WALTERS
USIA FOR AR

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
BODY
TAGS: SNAR, BL
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OPERATION GHOST ZONE, SITUATION AS OF 1100 HOURS, 2 APRIL.

REF: (A) LA PAZ 05253 (B) LA PAZ 05165 (C) LA PAZ 05116 (D) LA PAZ 04843 (E) LA PAZ 04787 (F) LA PAZ 05029

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. APRIL FOOL'S DAY PROVED TO BE A PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ONE FOR OPERATION GHOST ZONE BOTH ON THE GROUND AND IN THE AIR. BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE ELEMENTS CAPTURED A NARCO-TRAFFICKER AIRCRAFT AT 1800 HOURS AFTER SETTING A TRAP BASED ON PRIOR INTELLIGENCE DATA. AT ABOUT 1400 HOURS, TWO BOLIVIAN PC-7 AIRCRAFT SPOTTED A CESSNA 206 BELONGING TO NARCO-TRAFFICKERS. THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE PLANES GAVE CHASE AND WERE JOINED BY A DEA AIRCRAFT (AEROCOMMANDER) WHICH PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS AND NAVIGATIONAL SUPPORT. THE NARCO-TRAFFICKER PLANE REPORTEDLY FIRED SEVERAL AK-47 SHOTS AT THE PC-7'S. AT LEAST ONE ROUND STRUCK A PC-7. NO INJURIES OR MAJOR DAMAGE OCCURRED; THE PLANE KEPT FLYING ITS MISSION. THE SUSPECT AIRCRAFT LANDED AT 1720 HOURS NEAR THE TOWN OF LA CRUZ (153324S 634306W) AND BEGAN UNLOADING ITS CARGO. RURAL MOBILE POLICE (UMOPAR) WERE ABLE TO LAND AND SEIZE THE AIRCRAFT AT ABOUT 1800 HOURS. OVER 250 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE BASE WERE DISCOVERED ON THE PLANE, THOUGH THE PILOT ESCAPED. A SEARCH OF THE RANCH (ESTANCIA) WILL BE CONDUCTED TODAY. WHILE THE AIRCRAFT CHASE AND SEIZURE WAS TAKING PLACE, TWO MORE NARCO-TRAFFICKER PLANES WERE ABLE TO SLIP INTO THE CHAPARE WHILE THE AIRFORCE AND UMOPAR WERE DISTRACTED WITH THEIR APPREHENSION OF THE OTHER AIRCRAFT.

3. IN GROUND ACTION, UMOPAR AND SNOWCAP PERSONNEL RAIDED TARGETS IN THE TOWNS OF AROMA AND SINAHOTA. TWO COCAINE LABORATORIES WERE SEIZED IN AROMA WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO BELONG TO THE "COMBO" TRAFFICKING NETWORK. UMOPAR PERSONNEL WERE LEFT TO SURVEIL A HOUSE BELIEVED TO BE USED BY COMBO IN AN EFFORT TO CATCH THE NARCO-TRAFFICKER. IN SINAHOTA, AN UMOPAR-SNOWCAP RAID NETTED A LEADING MEMBER OF THE "CHURCO" TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION, RODOLFO COCA VALLEJOS.

FINALLY, UMOPAR ELEMENTS MAY HAVE APPREHENDED A KEY MEMBER OF A TRAFFICKER SURVEILLANCE NETWORK WHICH HAD BEEN WATCHING ACTIVITIES AT THE MAIN UMOPAR CAMP IN CHIMORE.

4. GROUND OPERATIONS IN THE WEST AND CENTRAL REGIONS OF THE CHAPARE APPEAR TO BE PUSHING NARCO-TRAFFICKER ELEMENTS EAST TOWARD THE TOWN OF IVIRGARZAMA. THIS MOVEMENT HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN AN INCREASE IN COCA LEAF AND BASE PRICES IN IVIRGARZAMA-- INDICATING THAT ILLICIT BUYING ACTIVITY HAS ACCELERATED IN THAT AREA.
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5. NEW FORWARD OPERATING BASES (FOB) ARE BEING ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE CHAPARE. A FOB HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR RIVERINE AND AIR FORCES AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE MAMORE AND CHIPIRIRI RIVERS (1555S 6440W). THIS SITE WILL RESTRICT THE MOVEMENT OF DRUGS OUT OF THE CHAPARE TOWARDS REFINING AREAS IN THE BENI DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, DEA HAS BEEN COORDINATING EFFORTS TO SET UP NEW UMOPAR AND NATIONAL POLICE GARRISONS IN STRATEGIC AREAS IN THE CHAPARE. BOWERS
ADMIN
BT

#5354

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